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screening for newborns that was on the National Conference of State Legislatures web site, on brain development relative to newborn hearing screening. I think it's a piece that is so appropriate in this situation. Nurturing responsive relationships during the first years of life are crucial to the brain's development. As a child interacts with the world the neural connections within his or her brain soars the first three years of life. This is when the vast majority of those connections are produced. And if children lack stimulation during this period of time, they'll be less able to learn, cope with stress and emotions and form relationships. And I think the point that I tried to make and I hope is still fresh in your mind, I don't bring...I try not to bring legislation, particularly health legislation that is short-sighted, that's thinking strictly of today. I try to think globally, and that's what this piece of legislation does. By early identification we're going to spend a few dollars, and not very many dollars, to address the problem with infants in the state of Nebraska. And the savings, the cost-effectiveness, the savings socially, the savings through addressing situations early, developing stigmas in our children are well worth the investment. So I would ask your support of the committee amendments, the amendment that we'll introduce following that, which you have copies of, and support of the bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Senator Byars. Senator Jensen, we'll next move...Senator Jensen, have you introduced the committee amendments before? Okay, thank you. I'm going to recognize you, though, four or five minutes on the committee amendment, Senator Jensen, to bring us up to speed and count that. Thank you. (AM2192, Legislative Journal page 535.)

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. The committee amendments are technical in nature. It just adds a couple things, deletes a couple things. In Section 5 we are adding, the Department of Health and Human Services shall apply for all available federal funding to implement the Infant Hearing Act. On page 6, line 25, we're striking, beginning with the word "screening", through the word "loss". On page 7 we are striking lines 8 through 11 and strike the beginning...and strike, beginning with the second "and" in line 22, through 23, and inserting a period. And then we renumber the remaining